(b) and (c) The PDS is implemented in all areas including the drought-hit areas in the country.

Non clearance of arrears of sugarcane growers in Andhra Pradesh

1980. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that many sugar mills in Andhra Pradesh have closed down without clearing the arrears of sugarcane price to the sugarcane growers;

(b) if so, the details thereof, mill-wise; and

(c) the action Government propose to take to ensure release of arrears to the growers by such sugar mills?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD): (a) As per information received from the Government of Andhra Pradesh, no sugar mill has closed down in the State without clearing the arrears of sugarcane price to the sugarcane growers.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Starvation deaths despite overflowing godowns

1981. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned, "Save lives, not grains-overflowing godowns do not square with starvation deaths", appearing in the Indian Express, dated 12th May, 2001; and

(b) if so, Government's views and reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government has taken a number of measures to utilize the stocks of foodgrains with it. These include *inter alia*, increase in the

allocation of foodgrains for BPL families under TPDS, downward revision of Central Issue Prices of wheat and rice, open market sale of wheat and rice at reduced prices, allotment of foodgrains at BPL rates for various welfare schemes and exports of wheat and rice.

Besides the above measures, food for work programme has been launched in the drought affected areas of Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa and Rajasthan. 18.19 lakh tonnes of foodgrains have been made available to these States, free of cost for FFW programme as per details given below:

(*in tonnes*)

	Rice	Wheat	Total
Chhattisgarh	507000	0	507000
Gujarat	31590	116515	148105
Himachal Pradesh	11549	0	11549
Maharashtra	10000	40000	50000
Madhya Pradesh	54424	158655	213079
Orissa	150000	0	150000
Rajasthan	0	739505	739505
TOTAL:	764563	1054675	1819238

The Government has also decided to make special additional allocation of foodgrains to the drought affected State at BPL rates for distribution to the drought affected families (both BPL and APL) at the rate of 20 kg. per family per month for a period of 3 months. So far special additional allocations have been made in favour of Orissa, Gujarat, Rajasthan and Maharashtra as per details given below:

(*in tonnes*)

Name of the State	Special additional allocation given per month		
	Rice	Wheat	Total
Orissa	16000	4100	20100
Gujarat	27255	81764	109019
Rajasthan	—	123555	123555
Maharashtra	54818.67	109637.33	164456

In additional to the above feed category foodgrains have been made available to drought affected State free of cost.

A Public Interest Litigation (writ Petition Civil) No. 196 of 2001) has been filed in the Supreme Court of India by People's Union for Civil Liberties impleading Union of India and others. The matter is yet to be finally disposed of.

Identification of BPL Families

†1982. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of BPL families identified so far in Orissa, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Uttaranchal, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Uttar Pradesh and North-Eastern States, State-wise;

(b) the rate at which foodgrains are being provided to the said families;

(c) whether Government have taken any effective steps to further reduce the prices of foodgrains being provided to these families in these States; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.